



Pond Possibilities

VOLUME 5 - ISSUE 1

SPRING 2004



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MANCHESTER URBAN PONDS RESTORATION PROGRAM

LOOP-TRAIL & PARKING-LOT AT DORRS POND RECEIVE A MAKEOVER!

Last summer, the Parks and Recreation Department began a trail improvement project at Livingston Park. Previous bridges were reconstructed and new boardwalks were constructed over sensitive wetland areas and the 1-mile loop-trail was widened and defined with crushed stone. The majority of the loop-trail is now A.D.A accessible, which allows handicapped persons to utilize the trail and boardwalk system. There are also several new park benches along the trail that overlook the pond and associated wetlands. In addition, native vegetation has been planted along portions of the shoreline and other areas to stabilize soils (erosion control) and filter sediment. Lastly, culverts have been installed and settling basins have been created in areas where upland and seasonal tributary runoff were degrading the trail.



The parking area adjacent to Dorrs Pond is also being improved. A boat-ramp was created last summer, and after being torn-up and covered in pot-holes for about two years, work on the parking lot will resume in late March. The parking lot should be graded (away from the water) and paved by early June. Other improvements include the installation of granite curbing, park benches, landscaping, and installation of a Downstream Defender (a water quality device that will filter and settle runoff from the parking lot). Be sure to visit Dorrs Pond and see the results!

POND POSSIBILITIES

Pond Possibilities is a bi-annual publication of the Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program.

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MANCHESTER TO HOLD 2ND ANNUAL EARTH DAY FORUM

April 22, 2004

PSNH Energy Park

780 North Commercial Street, Manchester

6:00 – 7:00pm: Registration, Refreshments and Networking Activities

7:00 – 8:30pm: Program

All Welcome, It's Free! Topics Include:

- ❖ Manchester Greenway Plan & Riverwalk
- ❖ Queen City Trail Alliance
- ❖ Paddling Opportunities on the Merrimack
- ❖ Peregrine Viewing & Birding Opportunities
- ❖ Urban Pond Restoration Program
- ❖ Partnering for Urban Restoration
- ❖ Atlantic White Cedar/Black Gum Swamps
- ❖ Environmental Activism in Manchester

RSVP Rick Cantu at (603) 624-6513 or rcantu@ci.manchester.nh.us

NEW “NO DUMPING” SIGNS TO BE POSTED NEAR CITY PONDS

In order to combat chronic yard waste disposal at Stevens and Maxwell Ponds, we have designed “No Dumping” signs. The signs will read *“Manchester Conservation Land: No Dumping Trash or Yard Waste. It’s the Law!”*

As organic debris like yard waste decomposes, it releases nutrients into the immediate environment. Not only is this unlawful, if this occurs near waterbodies, it leads to poor water quality and algal blooms. As a gentle reminder, please do not dump your yard waste (leaves, lawn clippings, weeds, tree branches, sawdust, compost, etc) on the City parkland adjacent to the ponds.

The “No Dumping” signs will be posted along Bridge Street Extension (adjacent to Stevens Pond) and near trails adjacent to Maxwell Pond. We hope the clearly visible signs will prohibit the occurrence of illegal dumping in these areas.

SPRING CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Each cleanup will be held on a **Saturday from 9-12:00 (raindates on Sunday)** but volunteers are not obligated to stay the entire time. Rakes, garbage bags, and gloves will be provided. Just bring yourself, a friend, and your community spirit of volunteerism! We look forward to meeting you, and greatly appreciate your assistance! The spring cleanup schedule is as follows:

Maxwell Pond: April 17 ; McQuesten Pond: April 24 ; Dorrs Pond: May 1 ; Stevens Pond: May 8 ; Nutts Pond: May 15 .
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CRYSTAL LAKE *PHRAGMITES* TREATMENT

The Manchester UPRP will be helping to restore the shoreline of Crystal Lake this summer. The exotic (not native) plant Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) has overtaken parts of the Lake’s shoreline, outcompeting beneficial native species. To combat this problem, Municipal Pest Management Services will be applying a non-toxic herbicide to the *Phragmites* stands to help curb the plants proliferation.

The herbicide (Rodeo) is similar to the widely used consumer herbicide Round Up. After Rodeo contacts water, it breaks down to constituents naturally found in the environment and is completely harmless. In fact, it is safe to swim in the affected lake during an herbicide application.

As *Phragmites* (or Common Reed) overtakes an area, it alters nearby plant, aquatic and terrestrial communities. This leads to decreased diversity and the disappearance of native species. *Phragmites* grows in sunny wetland habitats. It is found in fresh and alkaline marshes, pond margins, swamps and ditches. It is prevalent in wet areas that have disturbed or polluted soils.




The Crystal Lake herbicide application will take place once in June and, if necessary once again in September. The dead stands will be cleared next winter after ice-in.

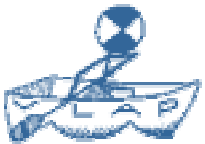
SPRING YARD WASTE REMINDER

The City Highway Department provides a free, bi-weekly curb-side collection service on the day that your recycling is collected. Containers marked with an orange “Yard Waste” stickers and/or paper lawn bags are acceptable. To obtain free stickers, or for more information on collection schedules, contact the Highway Department at (603) 624-6444.

OUTREACH/EDUCATION ENDEAVORS

- ❖ On September 1st and 2nd 2003 Art Grindle and Jen Drociak attended the first **Mill City Festival** at Arms Park. We brought along our informational display, yearly reports, newsletters, brochures, fact-sheets, and other publications, as well as a few common aquatic plants to display. Art and Jen talked with many people at the event, which was well attended. Of the aforementioned publications, 360 were distributed to passersby.
 - ❖ On November 8th, 2003 Jen Drociak attended the annual **Rivers & Watershed Conference** at the NH Department of Environmental Services. The “travelling display” was completely redesigned for this event, and all fact-sheets were revised. Jen was also on the invasives species panel with Bob Estabrook (NHDES Chief Aquatic Biologist), Doug Cygan (NH Department of Agriculture Invasive Species Coordinator), and Lyn Lombard (Piscataquog Watershed Association’s Purple Loosestrife Action Committee). Jen spoke about invasive species projects at Manchester’s urban ponds. To view the presentation on-line, visit <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/2003Conference/>. 109 publications were distributed at this event.
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- ❖ From November 14th through December 12th 2003, the **display** was exhibited at the **Manchester City Library**, East. During this time 116 publications were distributed to visitors. Thank you to the Manchester City Library for hosting our display!
 - ❖ Also in November 2003, Jen Drociak was a guest on **Manchester Community Television’s** (MCTV) history show “Early America”, hosted by Richard “R.J” Norton. Jen talked about the history of Crystal Lake, Dorrs Pond, Maxwell Pond, Nutts Pond, and Pine Island Pond. The show aired several times. From January 21st through March 5th 2004, the display was exhibited at the **University of New Hampshire**, Manchester campus. During this time, 288 publications were distributed to visitors. Thank you to UNHM for hosting our display!
 - ❖ On February 5th 2004, Art Grindle and Jen Drociak attended the **For Manchester** annual meeting. Art gave an overview of the Urban Ponds Restoration Program, and Jen and Art talked with many people. 65 publications were distributed to approximately 30 attendees.

A THANK-YOU & DEDICATION TO THE NH VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

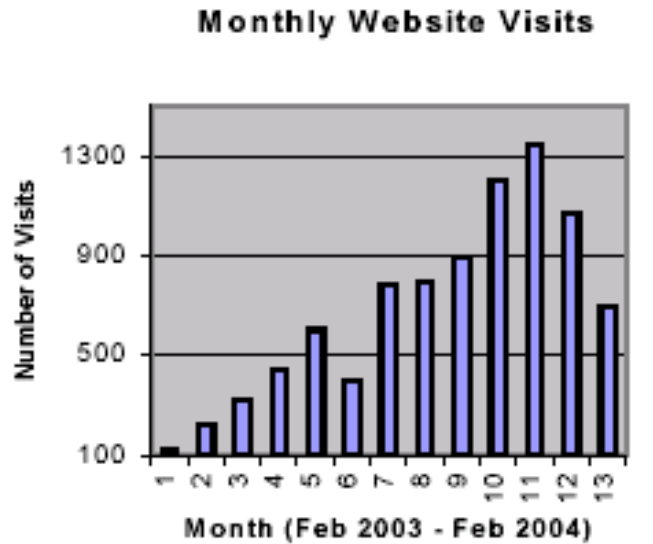


The Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program would like to thank the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services’ (NHDES) Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) for their continued enthusiasm and dedication over the last four years. VLAP has been continuously assisting the UPRP in streamlining UPRP water quality sampling procedures, coordinating water quality sampling sites and efforts, helping to analyze water quality data, and making recommendations in pond-specific annual reports. Manchester’s ponds are only 7 out of over 150 lakes and ponds in the program, which was established in 1985 and has over 500 volunteers. After a NHDES budgetary cut earlier this year, we were informed that the VLAP Program Coordinator was one of the people who was unfortunately laid off. As an update, we have just recently been informed that the Coordinator has been hired back with NHDES. It is important that this program continue in its efforts to assist the volunteer community and assess the health and quality of NH’s lakes and ponds. The UPRP would certainly not be where we are today without the assistance of NHDES VLAP.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF OUR WEBSITE

The UPRP website has been on-line for one year now, and we've tracked its use throughout the last twelve months through its "visits". A **visit** is defined as the number of visits that include a view of the specified page. Individual visitors are counted each time they come to the website and are counted only once per visit no matter how many page they look at.

As you can see from the graph below, visits to our website have been increasing by a wide margin! We are pleased that our outreach efforts and publicity have proven effective. In order to allure additional visits, we are always attempting to add something new to our website, and therefore keep it current. One of the worst things we have seen is a "stale" website, where it is never updated with new information.



WHAT'S NEW ON OUR WEBSITE?

Visit <http://www.manchesternh.gov/UrbanPonds> and check out the following:

- ❖ Nutts Pond Pollution Prevention Business Survey & Results
- ❖ Updated Fact-Sheets
- ❖ Updated Water Quality Information
- ❖ Hippo Press and Union Leader "Pond Profiles"
- ❖ Upcoming: Links to UPRP Presentations

POND POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY AND ON-LINE

Would you like to receive this publication electronically instead? The UPRP has an electronic newsletter mailing list, and Pond Possibilities can be sent to you in PDF format. If you would rather receive this mailing electronically (or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list) please send an e-mail to Jen Drociak at urbanponds@yahoo.com

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